

## **Varicella Implementation**

The DOH supplemental budget request for vaccines was approved by the legislature. The supplemental funding supports the implementation of the varicella requirement as outlined in the Varicella Implementation Plan dated 1/11/06. The text of the plan may be viewed at:

[www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/schools.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/schools.htm)

- The implementation start date is 7/1/06.
- The WAC specifies “varicella for children under thirteen years of age” and the implementation plan translates this into a 6<sup>th</sup> grade school requirement for children under thirteen years of age.
- There is no requirement for children 13 years of age or older regardless of their grade in school.
- Even though the rule only applies to children under 13 years of age, it is good public health practice for all adolescents to be immune from varicella as there is a greater risk of serious disease and complications in older adolescents and adults.
- The vaccine recommendation for persons 13 years of age and older is to receive two doses of varicella vaccine at least 28 days apart.
- As resources allow, schools are encouraged to screen additional children for varicella immunization beginning with 5th grade and working down through the lower grades